

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2015

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 3 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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**ISSUE:** Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive the items for consent.

### **A. FUNDING UPDATE**

The Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) continues to hold meetings to discuss the proposed FY 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets, which were proposed in December 2014, and modified since. The WMATA Board held a Board Committee meeting on February 12, 2015, in which such measures as bus and rail service reductions, and fare hikes were proposed to reduce the WMATA subsidy request by \$46 million. An across the board fare increase of \$0.10 is proposed. The service requests which could potentially affect Alexandria are eliminating WMATA Route 9A, restructuring Route 10A to substitute for much of the 9A service in the City, eliminating Route 10R and 10S service between Alexandria and Crystal City and Rosslyn, restructuring Route 21A and D, and potentially truncating the REX bus service at the Huntington Metrorail station. The final hearing is scheduled to be adopted by the WMATA Board on February 26<sup>th</sup>. After it has been approved, WMATA will solicit public opinion in March and April. The Commission will be notified of any activities affecting Alexandrians.

WMATA continues to hold discussions with regional funding partners to determine the language and funding amount which should be contained within a regional Comprehensive Funding Agreement (CFA). Progress on this agreement may be delayed due to the change in administration in Maryland.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has developed an initial set of FY 2015 and FY 2016 recommendations for funding 70% projects. Two of Alexandria's projects, the Potomac Yard Metrorail station and the West End Transitway received the second and third highest ratings of all NVTA 70% projects during this set of evaluations. Implementing Transit Signal Priority (TSP) on Duke Street was also recommended for funding. The NVTA Board will consider these recommendations at its meeting on February 26, 2015, and approve a set of projects to be considered at a 5:30 PM public hearing on

March 25, 2015 at the NVTa offices.

**B. METROWAY (ROUTE 1)**

**Staff is continuing to work on implementing additional elements including real-time bus arrival information. The real-time arrival signs have been installed and will be operational by the end of February.**

**Phase 2 of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway is scheduled to open in the spring of 2015 when the dedicated lanes from the Arlington County line to the Crystal City Metrorail Station are complete.**

**Background:** During the first round of TIGER grants, the City received \$8.5 million to design and construct the Route 1 Transitway between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Road. The City compiled additional grant funding and \$5.2 million in local funding to design/construct various elements of the Transitway project. The total cost of the Transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

For more information on the Route 1 Transitway project please see visit:  
<http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=58644>

**C. COMPLETE STREETS**

**In addition to the projects listed below, the Complete Streets Program routinely provides pedestrian and bicycle enhancements throughout the City including the installation of bicycle racks on streets and at schools and parks, new crosswalks, new and upgraded sidewalks, curb ramps and improved accessibility to parks and transit stops. In 2014, the following projects were completed:**

- **Two Safe Routes to School intersection redesign projects were completed in the fall of 2014. Intersections near Cora Kelly Elementary and George Mason Elementary were redesigned to shorten crossing distances, better align crosswalks and improve sidewalks and connectivity to the schools.**
- **A traffic calming project was completed along Russell Road. The project included new sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and the installation of speed cushions between Glebe Road and Monticello Avenue.**
- **The King Street bike lane and pedestrian improvement project was completed in September with the installation of a new signal at Upland Place. The project installed new, green bike lanes along King Street, provided upgraded and enhanced crossing opportunities with new crosswalks and pedestrian signals, and provided traffic calming with striping and installation of a “YOUR SPEED IS” sign.**

**In 2015, the following projects are slated for implementation in coordination with the City’s asphalt resurfacing program:**

- **The Monroe Avenue Complete Streets Project will be implemented in the summer of 2015, providing new bicycle facilities, pedestrian safety enhancements and safer intersections.**
- **Pedestrian safety improvements will be installed on Janney’s Lane at Taylor Run Parkway, including sidewalks, curb extensions, crosswalks, and bus stop improvements**

- **Traffic calming and pedestrian safety upgrades will be installed on Stevenson Avenue at Yoakum Parkway, including medians and pedestrian refuge islands, crosswalks, and the removing parking restrictions to add parking in the peak hour on Stevenson Avenue.**

**Additionally, the public outreach for a pedestrian and bicycle safety project at the intersection of King Street, Russell Road and Callahan Drive kicked off this year. Design of this project will continue throughout 2015.**

**Background:** Complete Streets is the term used to describe a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows for safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, riders and drivers and users of public transportation, as well as drivers of other motor vehicles.

In May 2014, City Council reenacted the Complete Streets Policy which was drafted and initiated by the Alexandria Transportation Commission. Alexandria is a leader in Complete Streets, with the first designated Complete Streets Coordinator in the region, which demonstrates the City's commitment to multimodal transportation and safety.

More information is available at: [www.alexandriava.gov/49868](http://www.alexandriava.gov/49868)

#### **D. OLD TOWN AREA PARKING STUDY**

**To build upon accomplishments of the 2012 Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group, and to be responsive to the Waterfront Small Area Plan planning studies and development proposals, the OTAPS Work Group reconvened in January 2015. At their January 28, 2015 meeting, the OTAPS Work Group reviewed recently collected parking utilization data. At the next Work Group meeting on February 25, 2015, the Work Group will review City's metered parking restrictions.**

**Background:** The Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group was formed to develop consensus on strategies identified by the Waterfront Small Area Plan and recommendations from the 2009 Old Town Area Parking Study. The final 2012 OTAPS report was submitted to Council in February 2013, and reports are posted online at [alexandriava.gov/ParkingStudies](http://alexandriava.gov/ParkingStudies).